

WEST CENTRAL REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

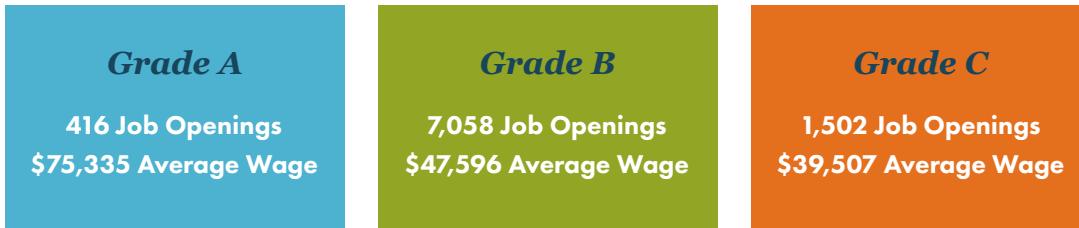
JANUARY 2025



Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The West Central region is projected to have over 10,800 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (83%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 59 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in the region in 2023 (\$47,419).

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades



Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most annual total job openings

over 1,300

Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Most grade A and B annual openings

over 1,000

Building & Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs Concentration

90%

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	1,366	877	64%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1,174	1,013	86%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	1,046	708	68%
Sales and Related Occupations	1,025	888	87%
Healthcare Support Occupations	919	807	88%
Production Occupations	870	413	47%
Management Occupations	655	420	64%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	594	361	61%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	430	239	56%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	427	342	80%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	395	288	73%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	383	344	90%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	355	284	80%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	267	206	77%
Protective Service Occupations	207	104	50%

West Central Region Top Grade Jobs

Now

Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 🔥	510	18.6%	\$30,211
B+	Stockers and Order Fillers 🔥	331	15.8%	\$34,636
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 🔥	214	1.0%	\$28,357
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	214	-3.5%	\$35,041
B	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 🔥	214	2.2%	\$36,082
B	Office Clerks, General	209	-5.5%	\$39,245
B	Waiters and Waitresses	206	-4.4%	\$35,777
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	188	3.8%	\$32,699
B	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	127	1.9%	\$30,801

Next

Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Nursing Assistants 🔥	220	7.0%	\$33,528
B+	Cooks, Restaurant 🔥	165	19.6%	\$32,465
B+	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	148	2.0%	\$49,650
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary 🔥	117	0.2%	\$33,697
B	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators 🔥	109	-4.7%	\$37,050
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General 🔥	108	3.9%	\$44,035
B+	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics 🔥	74	5.4%	\$43,020
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	73	-8.1%	\$44,570
B	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	70	-4.7%	\$41,563
B+	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses 🔥	61	7.1%	\$50,932

Later

Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General and Operations Managers 🔥	221	3.8%	\$78,755
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	119	1.0%	\$50,555
A	Registered Nurses 🔥	107	11.8%	\$71,720
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education 🔥	64	1.3%	\$58,803
B+	Accountants and Auditors	41	4.5%	\$66,473
B	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	37	1.3%	\$59,538
B	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	34	1.5%	\$72,641
A	Medical and Health Services Managers 🔥	33	33.6%	\$103,449
B	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors 🔥	32	5.1%	\$47,920
B	Human Resources Specialists	29	3.2%	\$58,236

🔥 Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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